

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 HEW-02 AID-05 ARAE-00 OES-03

EUR-12 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01

OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /102 W

----- 049409

P R 041712Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8976

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, PINT CO

SUBJECT: NATIONAL UNIVERSITY RECTOR REMOVED

REF: BOGOTA 5078

1. PRESIDENT LOPEZ RELIEVED NATIONAL UNIVERSITY RECTOR LUIS CARLOS PEREZ OF HIS POSITION LAST NIGHT FOLLOWING A DISPUTE WITH GOVERNMENT MINISTERS OVER THE OCCUPATION OF A PUBLIC HOSPITAL BY MEDICAL FACULTY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT FORCIBLE REMOVAL BY SECURITY FORCES. PEREZ HAD SIDED WITH THE FACULTY.

2. PEREZ'S APPOINTMENT TEN MONTHS AGO WAS ONE OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ'S MORE CONTROVERSIAL DESIGNATIONS, IN VIEW OF PEREZ WELL KNOWN AND OUTSPOKEN MARXIST VIEWS. THE RATIONALE WAS THAT A LEFTIST RECTOR COULD GAIN THE COOPERATION OF THE RADICALIZED STUDENT BODY AND MAKE UNNECESSARY THE USE OF PUBLIC FORCE TO MAINTAIN ORDER. IN A STATEMENT JUST PRIOR TO PEREZ'S REMOVAL, EDUCATION MINISTER DURAN DUSSAN TERMED THIS "EXPERIMENT" A "FAILURE" AND REGRETTED THAT "IT SHOULD HAVE ENDED BY PROVING THAT THOSE CRITICS

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WERE CORRECT WHO DESCRIBED US AS IMPRUDENT".

3. AT MIDMORNING THE SITUATION IN THE CITY AND AT THE UNIVERSITY, WHERE MOST FACULTIES HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE SINCE YESTERDAY, WAS QUIET. STUDENTS ARE MEETING AND FACULTY DEANS ARE REPORTEDLY RESIGNING IN SUPPORT OF PEREZ. THE REMOVAL OF PEREZ IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO SPARK CONSIDERABLE STUDENT REACTION, WHICH WILL PROBABLY TAKE THE FORM OF DEMONSTRATIONS LATER THIS AFTERNOON. A PREVIOUSLY PLANNED DEMONSTRATION DOWNTOWN BY THE COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED CSTC IN SUPPORT OF STRIKING CEMENT WORKERS COULD LEND ITSELF TO JOINT DEMONSTRATIONS. MEANWHILE, THE POLICE HAVE CALLED IN ALL THEIR OFF-DUTY ELEMENTS AND RESTRICTED THEM TO THEIR BARRACKS.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

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